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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT



IDENTIFICATION OF
SOVIET NAVAL SHIPS
IN RESERVE STATUS

FEBRUARY 1970

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IDENTIFICATION OF SOVIET NAVAL SHIPS IN RESERVE STATUS

KEYHOLE photography of 110 Soviet naval installations was analyzed in an effort to determine photographic indicators of vessels in reserve. In turn, such indicators were used to identify the numbers and locations of reserve vessels comprising significant elements of the Soviet Naval Reserve Fleet. The analysis was based entirely on photography and does not reflect information derived from other source materials on reserve fleet holdings.

Photographic indicators were established that appear to be applicable to reserve vessels in all Soviet fleet areas. On the basis of these indicators, 60 surface vessels and at least 14 submarines were identified as associated with elements of the Soviet reserve fleet. Eleven installations were found to have these reserve elements (Figure 1). Although more than 14 submarines may be in reserve, only five W-class submarines (at Sovetskaya Gavan) and nine Q-class submarines (five at Kronshtadt and four at Balaklava) could be identified by means of these indicators.

The reason that only a relatively small number of submarines is associated with these indicators is still undetermined. Analysis of those installations where reserve units have not been identified is continuing in order to assess the status not only of submarines but also of the smaller surface vessels, which were not analyzed at this time.

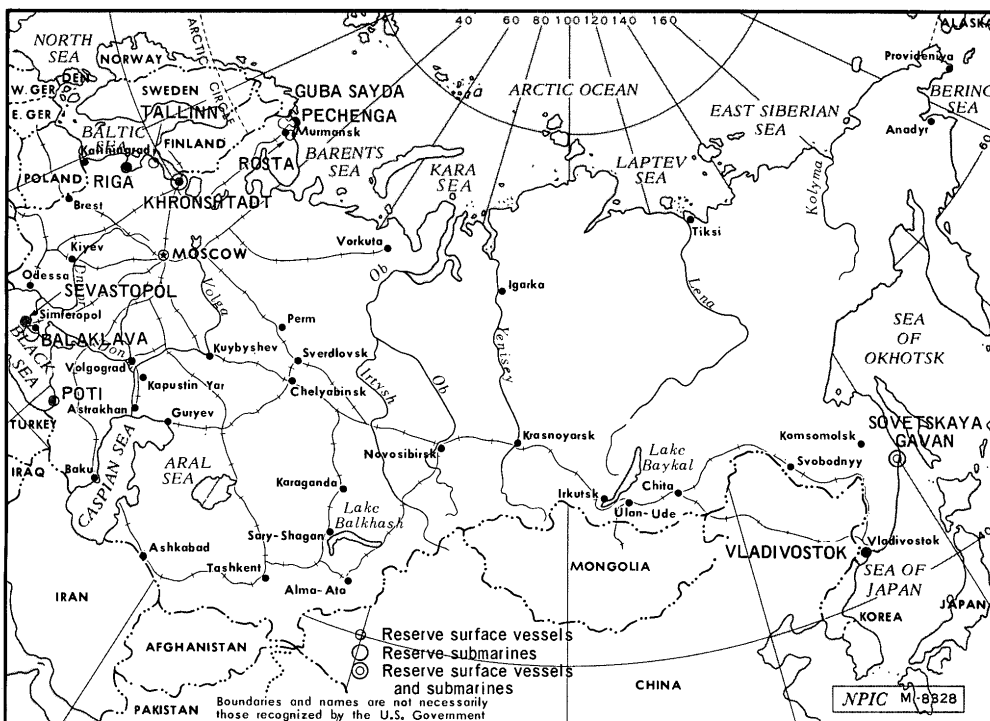


FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF ELEMENTS OF THE SOVIET RESERVE FLEET

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Note: NPIC is experimenting with various methods of presenting color imagery in its reporting and is studying these methods in terms of efficiency of reproduction and of manhour and materials costs. The method for presenting color imagery shown here is a photographic reproduction on glossy paper, a method which because of costs may not become standard. Another method under consideration is processed-color photography, which is a method of color separation half-tones for offset printing. (The black-and-white photograph was reproduced in a single-color half-tone.)

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Environmental Control Units

Environmental control units, which are an important indicator for identifying ships in reserve status, are observed on the decks of surface vessels and submarines. These units probably serve as both dehumidifiers and heaters. A unit is rectangular, is possibly constructed of sheet metal, and Flexible lines or hoses may be seen extending from environmental control units to several areas on a surface ship. Occasionally one unit may serve as many as four submarines (Figure 3).

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Typical locations of these units on surface vessels and submarines are as follows: on the Sverdlov-class cruiser (CL), the control units are observed portside aft, starboard side forward, and port and starboard sides amidships (Figure 4). Kotlin-class destroyers (DD) usually have three or four control units along the starboard side (Figure 5). On the Skoryy-class destroyer (DD), there are usually three or four control units aligned on the portside; however, at times one unit has been placed forward on the starboard side (Figure 5). On the Riga-class destroyer escort (DE), the control unit is on the portside, forward of the twin 37-mm gun mount (Figure 5). An additional unit has often been observed on the starboard side of the B turret. On the T-58 fleet minesweeper, the unit is on the stern, but on the T-43 fleet minesweeper the unit is portside amidships (Figure 4). On both the W-class and Q-class submarines the control units are located abaft the sail.

Locations of Reserve Surface Vessels

The ten areas where reserve surface vessels are located are described, and Table 1 provides a breakdown of the numbers sighted.

Pacific Fleet Area

At Sovetskaya Gavan, reserve vessels are located approximately .2 nautical miles (nm) west of Sovetskaya Gavan Submarine Base.

At Vladivostok, the reserve vessels are at Vladivostok Naval Base Bukhta Novik, which is approximately 4 nm south-southwest of the city.

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Northern Fleet Area

At Guba Sayda, reserve vessels are 760 meters (2,493 feet) northeast of Guba Sayda Naval Base Southwest.

At Pechenga, reserve vessels are approximately 1.2 nm north of Pechenga Submarine Base Linakhamari.

Baltic Fleet Area

At Kronshtadt, the reserve vessels are located between Kronshtadt Submarine Base and Kronshtadt Naval Base and Shipyard and are mixed with active units.

At Riga, the reserve vessels are berthed at the southern edge of Riga Naval Base and Shipyard Bolderaja.

At Tallinn, the reserve vessels are moored at the northwest edge of Tallinn Naval Base and Shipyard Morskoy Zavod.

Black Sea Fleet

At Sevastopol, the reserve vessels are mixed with active vessels at Sevastopol Naval Mine and Torpedo Storage UG.

At Poti, the reserve vessels are moored at the southwest edge of Poti Naval Base and Shipyard Yelyava 201.

Table 1. Location of Surface Ships of the Reserve Fleet, November 1969

Location by Fleet	Ships by Class						
	Sverdlov CL	Kotlin DD	Skoryy DD	Riga DE	T-58 MSF	T-43 MSF	T-43 PFR
Pacific							
Sovetskaya Gavan	1	--	3	2	--	2	--
Vladivostok	--	1	5 (1 unarmed)	1	--	--	--
Northern							
Guba Sayda	--	--	4	--	--	--	--
Pechenga	--	--	--	--	3	7	4
Rosta	1 prob	--	--	--	--	--	--
Baltic							
Kronshtadt	1	1	2	--	--	--	--
Tallinn	--	--	2	3	--	1	--
Riga	--	--	--	--	--	8	--
Black Sea							
Sevastopol	1	1	3 poss	--	--	--	--
Poti	--	--	--	3	--	--	--
Total	4	3	19	9	3	18	4

REFERENCES

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